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East Lansing, MI 48823
May 27, 2003

William T. Hawks
Under Secretary for Marketing and regulatory Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA
Stop 0259, Room 2092-S
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0249

Dear Under Secretary Hawks:

As a concerned consumer, I want to urge you to develop simple, effective guidelines for the mandatory country of origin labeling program, such as those recommended by the Americans for Country of Origin labeling coalition.

We need accurate information about the food we feed to our families, such as where it was produced. This seems even more urgent, now, as food safety and disease outbreaks have occurred with disturbing regularity around the world in recent years.

Please don't let large agribusiness concerns drive you to rely on inflated cost estimates and "doom and gloom" scenarios of excessive administrative burdens. This is about our health and our families. Please make sure we can know where our food comes from and don't let industry hide the facts from us.

Sincerely,

Carol LeMense